

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are all the claims pending in the application. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-13 are rejected as unpatentable over Patterson in view of Schwendeman, and claim 3 is rejected over the same art in further view of Chao. These rejections are traversed.

In applying Patterson, the examiner considers each claimed “area” to be, e.g., a 1m radius around each mobile phone. This does not satisfy the claim language since the claim requires that the system receives calls from any area and transmits said calls to the same area or another area, and Patterson cannot transmit to the “same area” if the area is considered to be the phone itself.

Further, the examiner acknowledges that Patterson does not teach that each “area” is covered by a respective satellite antenna, and relies on Schwendeman for this, but the combined teachings could not have led one to the presently claimed invention.

Schwendeman teaches in Fig. 1 a system wherein the entire region is covered by a single antenna 14 (see, e.g., lines 25-33 of column 2), the antenna having multiple lobes each radiating a respective area. For purposes of present discussion, it will be assumed that lines 40-43 of column 2 suggest that separate antennas for each area may be used instead of separate lobes. But at the very best, the only possible obvious application of the teachings of Schwendeman to Patterson would be to have multiple antennas in Patterson each radiating a respective cell. There is no possibility that anyone would have considered it obvious to have a separate antenna radiate

each telephone, which would be necessary to satisfy the claim language if each “area” is a 1 m radius around each mobile phone.

If Patterson were modified to have separate antennas radiating each cell, the only remaining question is then whether the modified Patterson system would satisfy the claim language with each geographic area radiated by an antenna corresponding to the claimed “areas” in the present claims. The answer is that it would not. There is no teaching anywhere in Patterson of grouping calls from multiple earth fixed cells and routing them as a group, nor is there any suggestion in Schwendeman of doing this with its geographic areas.

Applicant does not claim to be the first to have each antenna radiate a respective geographic area, and Schwendeman is no different from the prior art described in the background of the present application. The problem with the rejection proposed by the examiner is not so much that Patterson does not teach the “respective antenna” feature of claim 1, but that the examiner is taking the position that an individual mobile phone is an “area” in the claim. The examiner is forced to this interpretation because in fact Patterson does not at all teach the present invention by any reasonable interpretation of the claim language. And once this interpretation is adopted, the satisfaction of the claim language will at a minimum require one antenna per phone, and even that would not suffice because there is no routing back to the same phone to satisfy the “transmits said calls to the same area” recitation in claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION
U.S. Application No.: 09/722,29

Attorney Docket No.: Q61924

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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